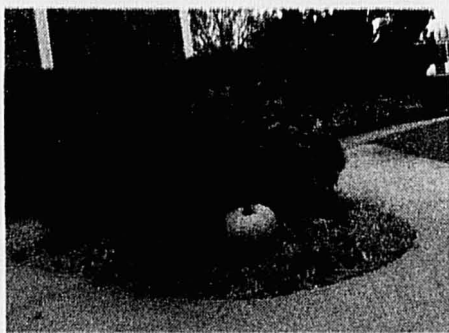


Inside this special issue are some of the many ways Avila prepared for Thanksgiving with the annual Week of Giving.



the TALON

AVILA UNIVERSITY

November 23, 2004 Vol. XIII ISSUE 7

Bell ringers silenced at Target

Donna Jungman
News Editor

Every season shoppers see the men and women dressed in a red Salvation Army apron, greeting people as they pass, ringing their bells, and standing next to a red tin bucket for donations.

Starting this season, the bell ringers have been silenced at all of the Target stores. The Target Corporation is now enforcing their no solicitation policy on all individual organizations and non-profit organizations, which includes the

Salvation Army.

In previous years, Salvation Army was the only organization that could stand in the front of the doorways at Target. Salvation Army volunteers stationed at Target stores in the Kansas City area brought in \$150,000, and nationally pulled in approximately \$9 million.

This loss of \$9 million affects hundreds of needy families, families that have no winter clothes, families with no shelter from the cold, and families with little food or water.

The Salvation Army states that they are dedicated to caring for the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, loving the unlovable, and befriending the friendless. This dedication has produced an international network of helpful ministries.

The Salvation Army is trying to increase the number of corporations where bell ringers are welcome to make up for the money the expected loss from Target.

Target wants to remind people while they will not allow ringers outside the

store they do help the community by donating more than \$2 million a week.

For the first time, the Salvation Army is accepting donations online. To make an online contribution visit www.salvationarmy.org.



Help is always needed

Nicole Sowders
Opinion Editor

As the line continues to grow, the food continues to be served on plates. Every year, volunteers at the Wilhelmina Gill Multi-Service Center gather to serve those who can't afford a warm meal, especially in the winter. Approximately 500 to 600 people frequently visit the center for a free lunch or dinner.

Lisa Levine, Coordinator of Communication Services at Avila, visits



Avila students and faculty celebrate Thanksgiving with an early meal last week in the Marian Center. Coordinator of Communication Services Lisa Levine will spend her time serving warm meals to those less fortunate this holiday.

the center seven times a year with her synagogue.

"It has gotten worse, now that our

economy is the way it is now. Many of the people only make minimum wage, and can't afford two meals a day," Levine said.

Levine explained that there is always a need for help. The center is always open for help, even if it is for an hour.

"After we serve the meal, we are always invited back, and told to just show up if we wanted," Levine said.

In addition to the meals, the center also provides other services to 200 individuals a day. During the holiday season, after their hot turkey and gravy meal, they can pick up hygiene products, sweatshirts, gloves, socks and other items they can't afford. All of these items are donated. Donations are received from those in the community, such as churches, synagogues and sur-

rounding neighborhood groups.

"They don't care if it was a used sweatshirt, as long as they can use it," Levine said.

After they leave the center, people walk home; many of them don't own cars.

The center provides a meal that they can't afford at home.

The Wilhelmina Gill Center is located at 7th and Nebraska, in Kansas City, Kan. Currently, volunteers are anticipating serving 450 adults and children.

"Aside from volunteering, toys, hats, gifts, and food is always needed for the holiday season," Levine said.

To find out more information on how to volunteer or donate, contact Lisa Levine at 816-501-3637.

Cunningham family donates to Theater Department, residence halls and library

Long time Avila friends and supporters Bob and Rosemary Cunningham donated \$10,300 worth of household items to the university. The couple is retired and planned on moving, but were unable to move all of their household items with them. Donating them to Avila was not a problem.

Cunningham, President Gordon, Assistant Professor of Theater Jason Harris and seven other Avila students spent several hours moving the items on Oct. 7. The household items consisted of couches, lamps, glassware, brooms, books, luggage, tables, and many more.

The donated items will be used for the Theater Department, the residence halls and the books will be donated to the library.

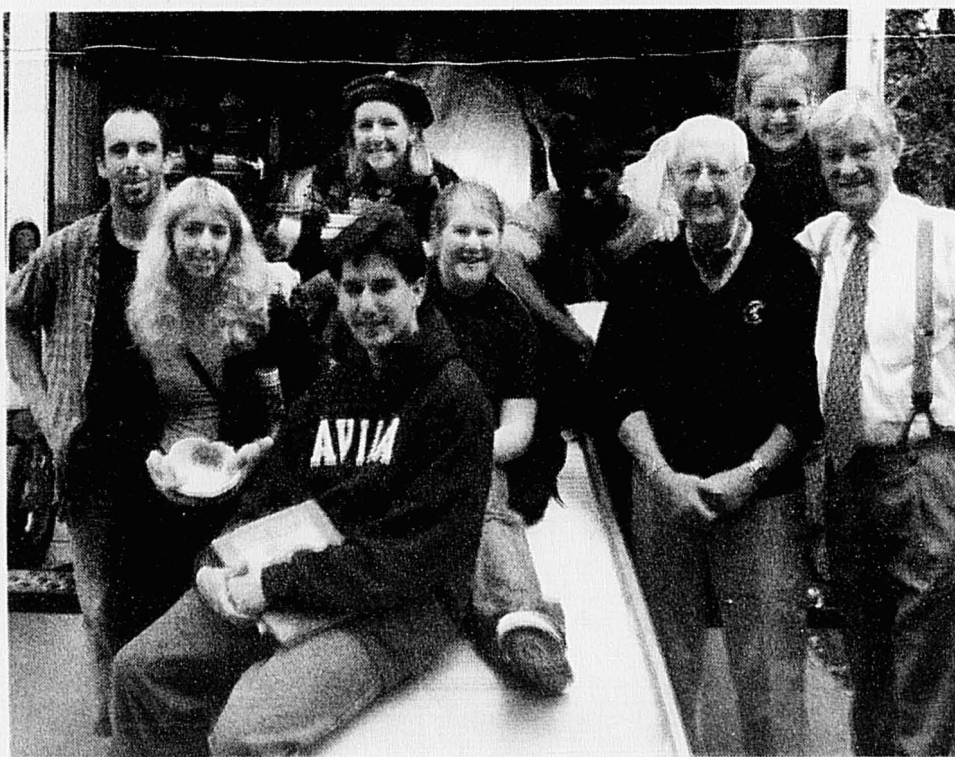


Photo submitted

BSU builds stronger unity

Johnny Turnage
Current Events Editor

This year's theme for Black Student Union (BSU) is building stronger unity. With this in mind; the group adopted a family for the Week of Giving.

"This year we are trying to build stronger unity and as a way to do this we are planning on doing various community service projects that will allow for us to give to the community and at the same time work with people of different cultures and in doing so learn and appreciate the differences," president Sherrell Dandy said.

BSU adopted a family by first contacting Community Action. Community Action gave the name and

contact information of a family. BSU then contacted the family to see what the family needed for this Thanksgiving holiday.

The family is an elderly couple. BSU hopes to provide the family with non-perishable items and a turkey or ham in hopes that the family will have a very fulfilling Thanksgiving holiday dinner.

"During this time of the year it makes me feel good that I am able to be involved in helping others out and bringing some sort of happiness to someone's day," treasure and fundraising manager Chamene Woods said.

BSU plans to deliver the food to the family on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

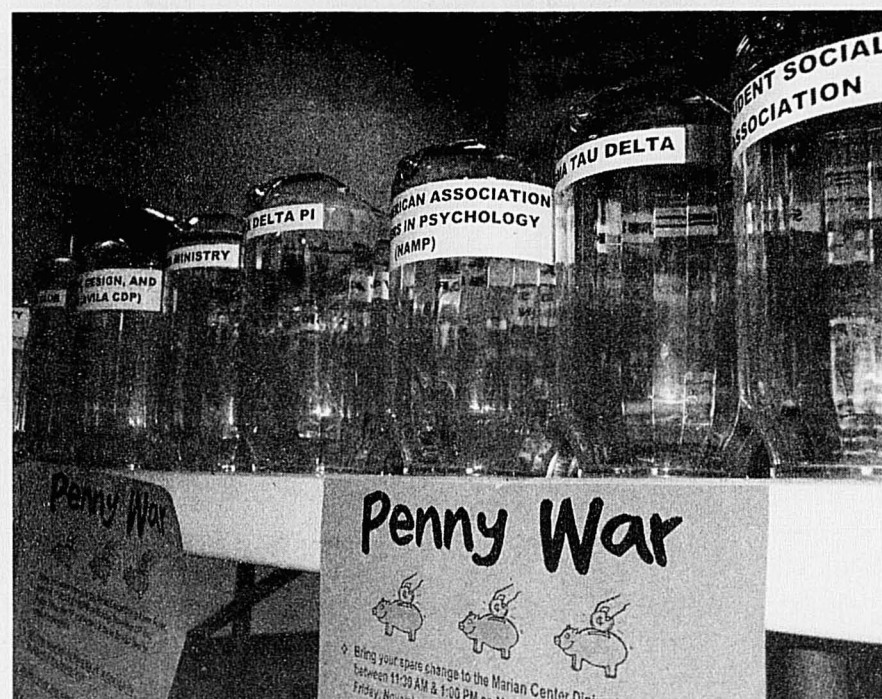


Photo by Jason Neiz

Student organizations battle in the name of charity

Avila's Student Life Office organized a Penny War Nov. 15-19. Students and faculty were asked to bring their spare change to the Marian Center dining room foyer and throw it in a jar for their favorite student organization. The student organization with the most points won a \$50 cash prize. All money raised from the penny war was donated to the St. Vincent's Family Service Center.



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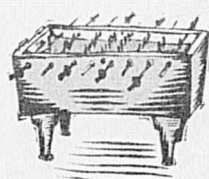
Available on paper at various locations
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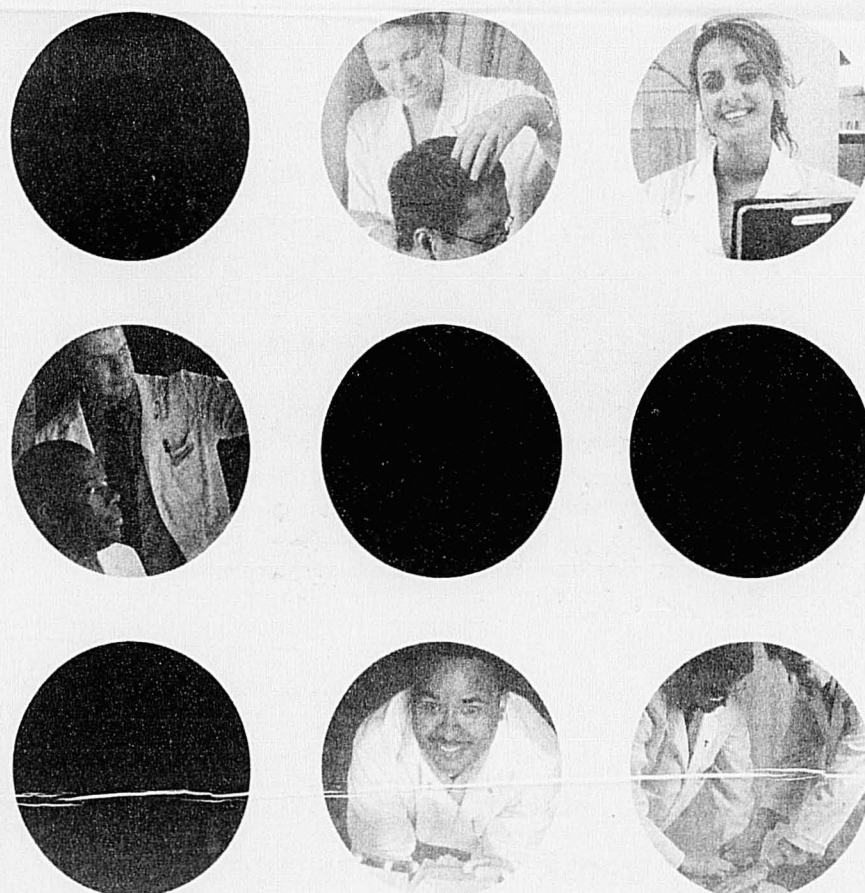
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ACDP holds charity drive

Ryan Cook
Profiles Editor

Avila Concept, Design and Production's first attempt at a charity drive ("change the world party") ended in controversy. ACDP's second attempt at a donation drive began just before the Holiday season.

For Avila's Week of Giving, ACDP ran a donation drive for the upcoming holidays geared toward giving to the children of domestic abuse.

"The 'change the world party' was for a good cause but unfortunately that wasn't why it stirred up so much attention," junior Ben Digman said. "This donation drive is specifically for that—donations, giving to something without an alternative agenda,



which is really what ACDP is all about, helping out the community it is

involved with."

The Diaper Drive collected diapers,

baby clothes, non-perishable baby food, and other items that would benefit infants and toddlers. The donations went to SafeHome, a non-profit organization that shelters domestically abused women and children.

"A lot of the donations that go to SafeHome are for the women, and we realize that, so we thought we would target the donations more towards the children this holiday season," vice president David Madeo said.

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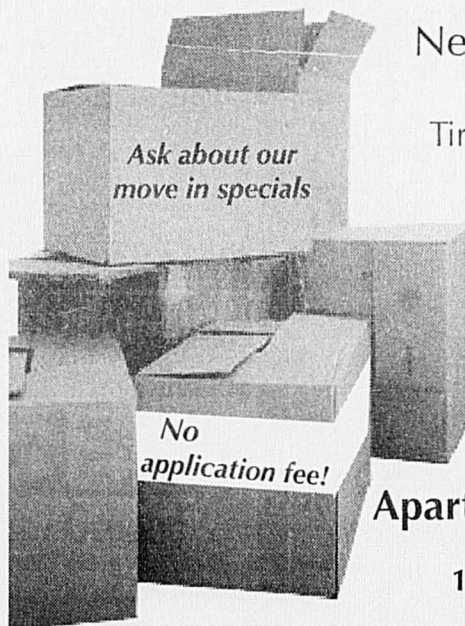
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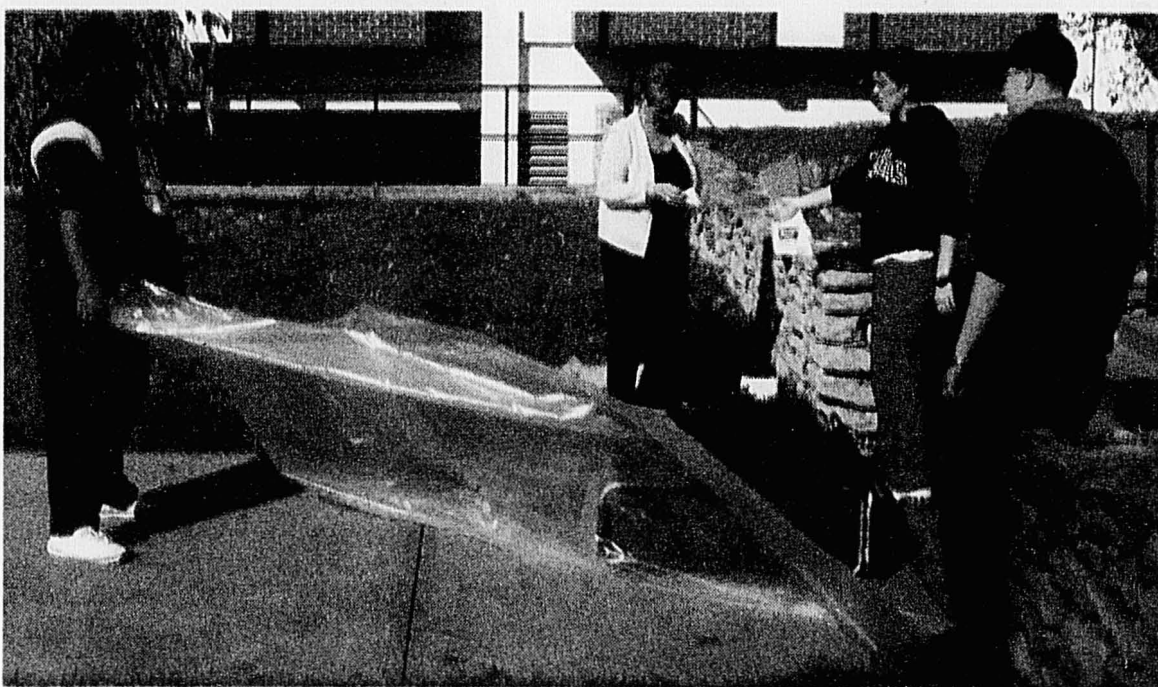
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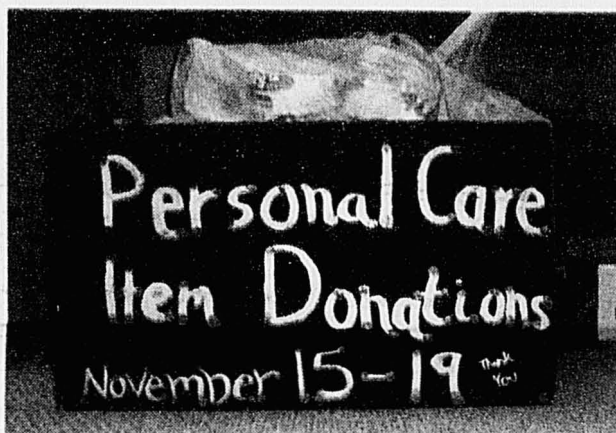




Johnny Turnage, Tom Franklin and Ashley Poore help Nurse Carol Frevert set up for Turkey Bowling Nov. 17. For every strike, Avila Wellness make a dollar donation in the striker's name to Harvesters for families in need.



Instructor of Communication Kasey Riley takes aim before taking her shot at Turkey Bowling.



Kappa Delta Pi and AEA collected personal care products to benefit social service agencies that deliver items to needy families.

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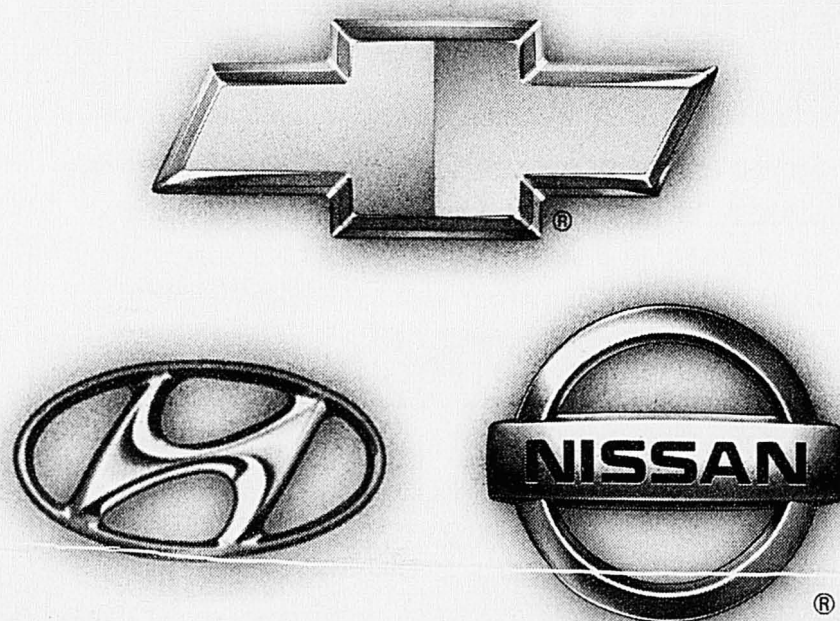
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